



MICHELINIE
KARAMI
PRIANTO

VENOM

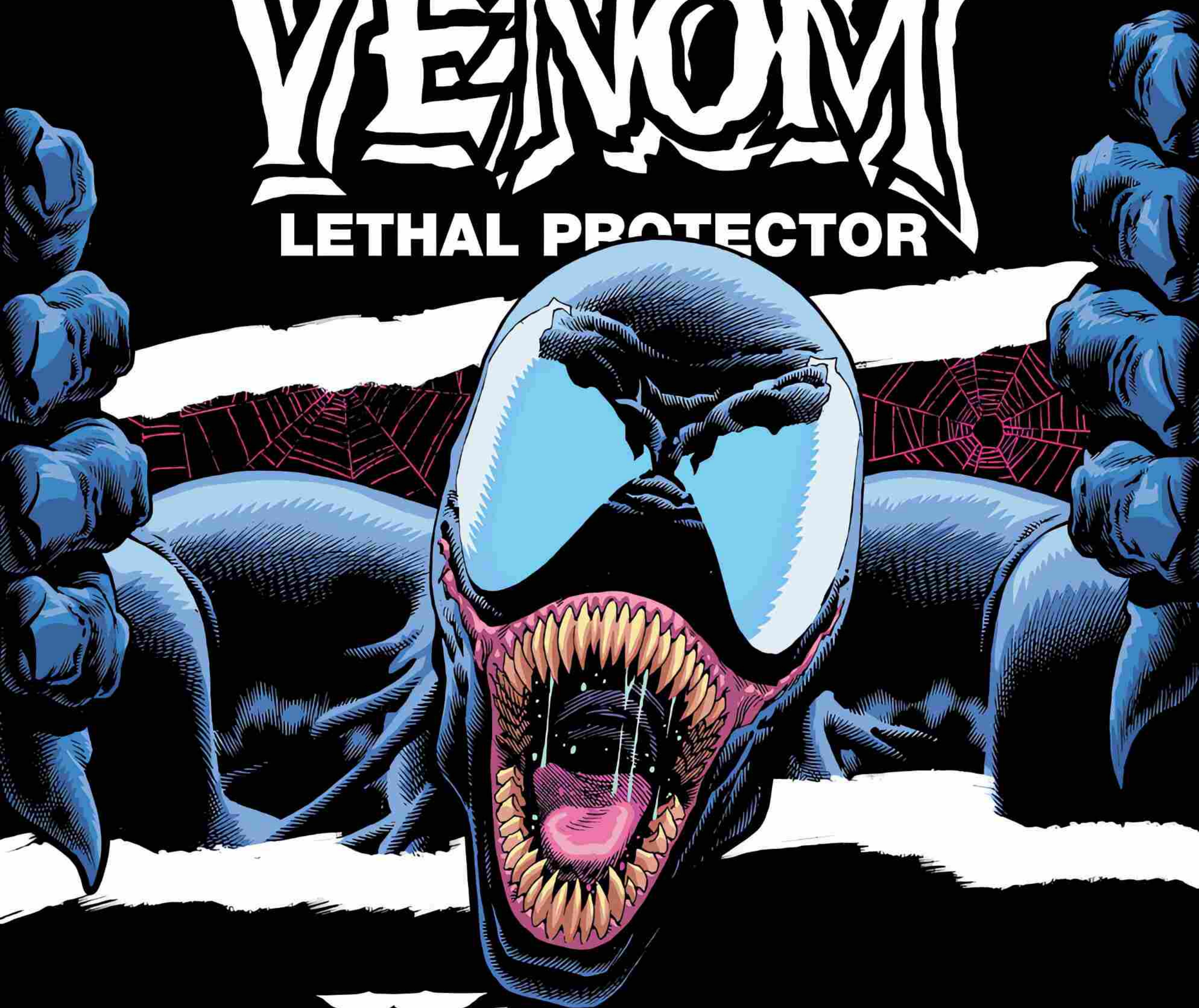
LETHAL PROTECTOR

THUP
JAN
2023
Rachelle

EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST. BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. DISGRACED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE, UNAWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER. SPURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ADHESION, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENDRILS WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUSADE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR



II

PART 5 of 5

TOGETHER, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE HAVE SWORN ETERNAL AND VIOLENT VENGEANCE AGAINST THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. THOUGH THEY HUNGER FOR PETER PARKER'S BRAINS, THEY HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE POWER.

DOCTOR DOOM HAS OFFERED EDDIE A DEAL. IN EXCHANGE FOR ALLOWING DOOM TO EXPERIMENT ON THE SYMBIOTE TO UNLOCK A POWER CAPABLE OF AIDING HIM IN HIS QUEST TO RETURN HIS DECEASED MOTHER FROM HELL, THE LATVERIAN MONARCH WILL SHARE THE THEORIZED KEY TO IMMORTALITY BURIED WITHIN THE CREATURE'S ALIEN BIOLOGY WITH EDDIE.

AFTER THE FAILED FIRST EXPERIMENT, WHICH SILENCED THE SYMBIOTE'S PRESENCE IN EDDIE'S MIND, DOOM DISPATCHED THEM TO RETRIEVE A PAGE FROM THE FABLED DARKHOLD. USING THAT PAGE AS WELL AS A SHARD OF ALIEN TECH RECOVERED FROM VANGUARD, DOOM BETRAYED EDDIE AND SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED HIM FROM HIS SYMBIOTIC PARTNER. THE ALIEN'S NEW HOST? DOCTOR DOOM HIMSELF!

HIGH IN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS OF UPSTATE NEW YORK, AT THE PRIVATE REFUGE OF VICTOR VON DOOM, SOMETHING...**STRANGE**...HAS OCCURRED.

I WAS A FOOL! ALL MY LIFE, I'VE SOUGHT IT BUT NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD IT!

BUT TRULY, THIS... THIS...

...IS **POWER!**

The Soul of the Monster

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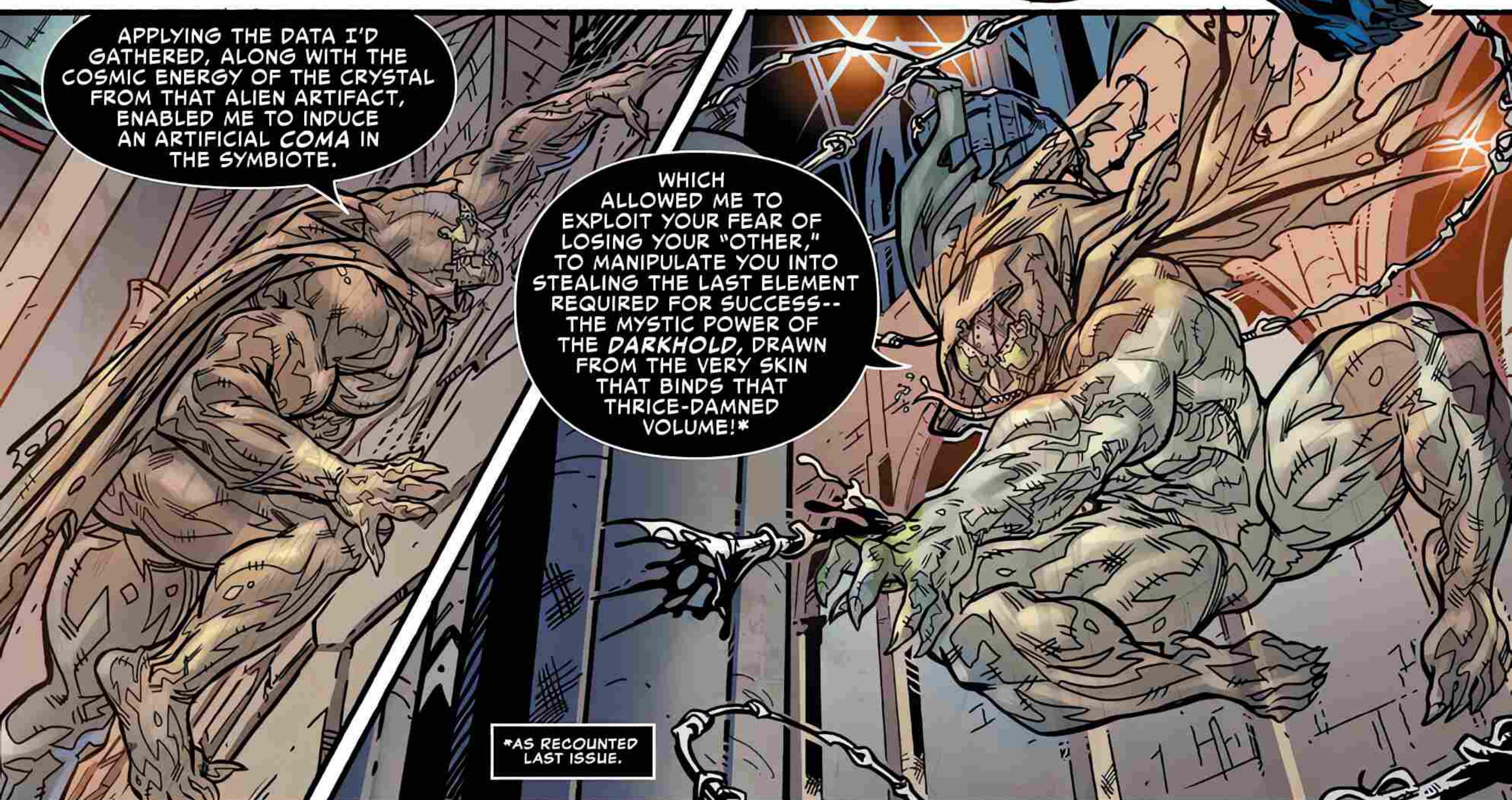


B-BUT HOW--? AND WHY? YOU SAID MY OTHER MIGHT BE THE KEY TO IMMORTALITY!

A WAY TO FREE YOUR MOTHER FROM HELL, TO CONTINUE THAT BATTLE FOREVER!

YES, THAT WAS MY INITIAL GOAL.

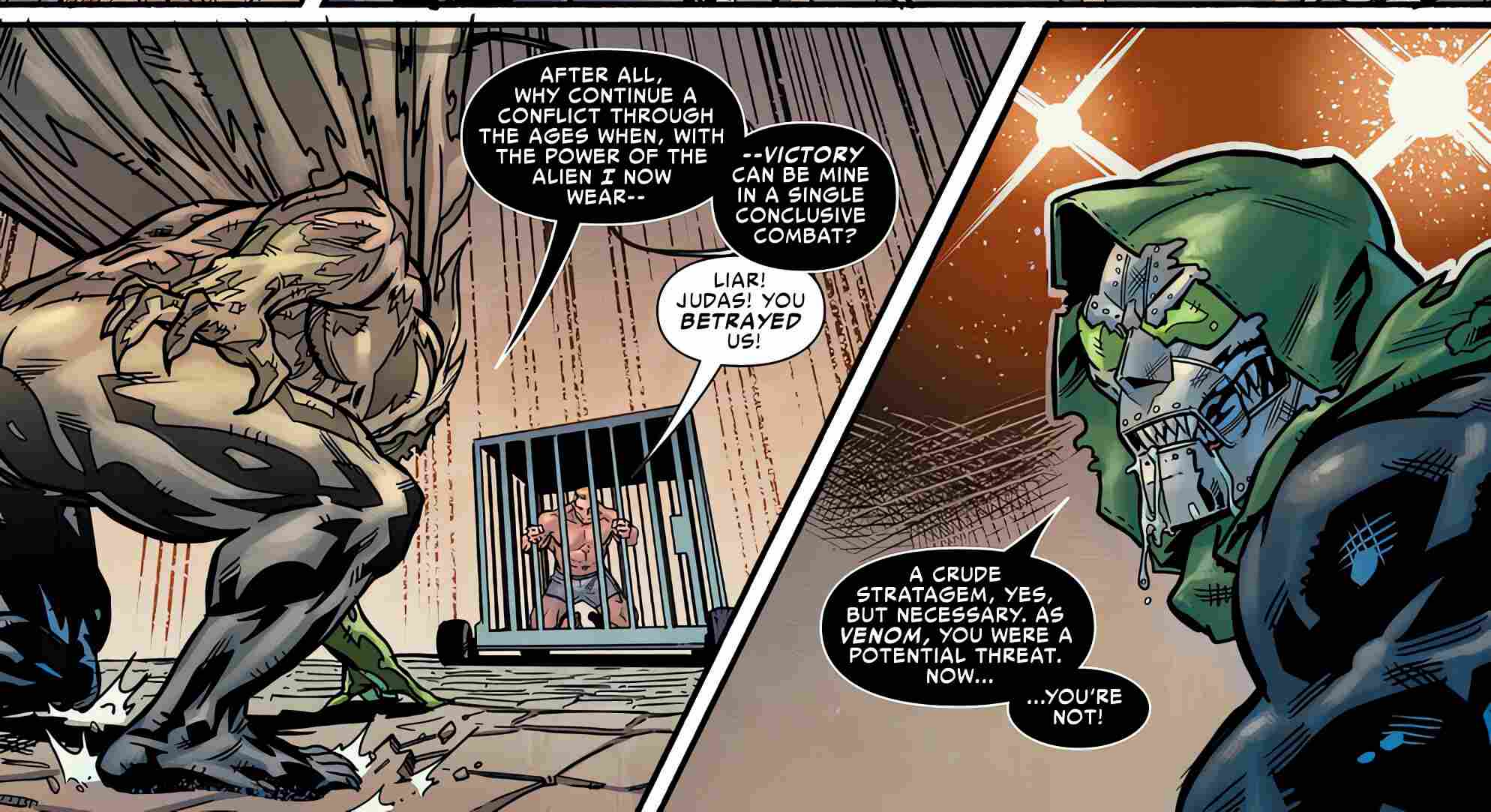
BUT RESEARCH INTO THE ABILITIES OF YOUR SYMBIOTIC PARTNER OPENED A NEW PATH.



APPLYING THE DATA I'D GATHERED, ALONG WITH THE COSMIC ENERGY OF THE CRYSTAL FROM THAT ALIEN ARTIFACT, ENABLED ME TO INDUCE AN ARTIFICIAL COMA IN THE SYMBIOTE.

WHICH ALLOWED ME TO EXPLOIT YOUR FEAR OF LOSING YOUR "OTHER," TO MANIPULATE YOU INTO STEALING THE LAST ELEMENT REQUIRED FOR SUCCESS-- THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE DARKHOLD, DRAWN FROM THE VERY SKIN THAT BINDS THAT THRICE-DAMNED VOLUME!*

*AS RECOUNTED LAST ISSUE.



AFTER ALL, WHY CONTINUE A CONFLICT THROUGH THE AGES WHEN, WITH THE POWER OF THE ALIEN I NOW WEAR--

--VICTORY CAN BE MINE IN A SINGLE CONCLUSIVE COMBAT?

LIAR! JUDAS! YOU BETRAYED US!

A CRUDE STRATAGEM, YES, BUT NECESSARY. AS VENOM, YOU WERE A POTENTIAL THREAT. NOW...

...YOU'RE NOT!



TRESPASS
ALERT--!



MASTER!
SENSORS
INDICATE A
PERIMETER
BREACH IN
SECTOR
TWO!

VISUAL
RECOGNITION
IDENTIFIES--

"--SILVER SABLE
AND HER
WILD PACK!"



FEH! I
HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT
CONCERNS!

ACTIVATE
SECURITY
TROOPS AND
TARGET THE
INTRUDERS!



KILL
THEM
ALL.



WHY SO GLUM, CHUM? NOT USED TO LOSIN'?



C'MON, "KILL THEM ALL"? ISN'T THAT A BIT BRUTAL, EVEN FOR DOCTOR DOOM?



HEY, LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'!

THE TOUGH GUY WHO'D KILL A DOZEN BYSTANDERS IF JUST ONE OF 'EM TOOK SOME CANDY FROM A BABY!



NOT SO TOUGH NOW ARE YA, HOTSHO--

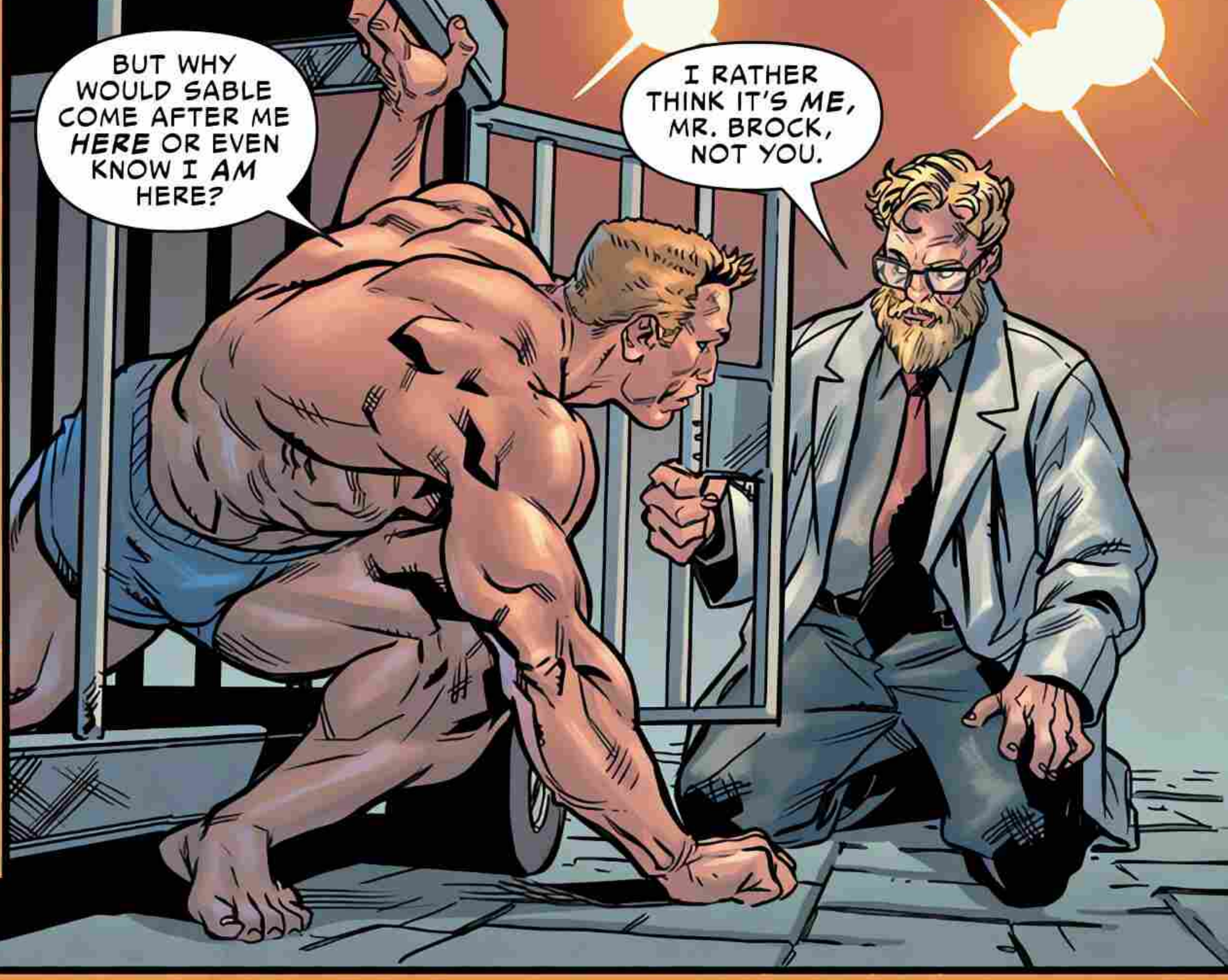


KLONK



ONE ADVANTAGE OF BEING INNOCUOUS--PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET YOU'RE THERE!

THANKS, GODDARD.



BUT WHY WOULD SABLE COME AFTER ME HERE OR EVEN KNOW I AM HERE?

I RATHER THINK IT'S ME, MR. BROCK, NOT YOU.



BLESSING LONGEVITY STUDIES INSISTS ITS EMPLOYEES BE "CHIPPED" WITH A TRACKING DEVICE, IN CASE OF ABDUCTION.

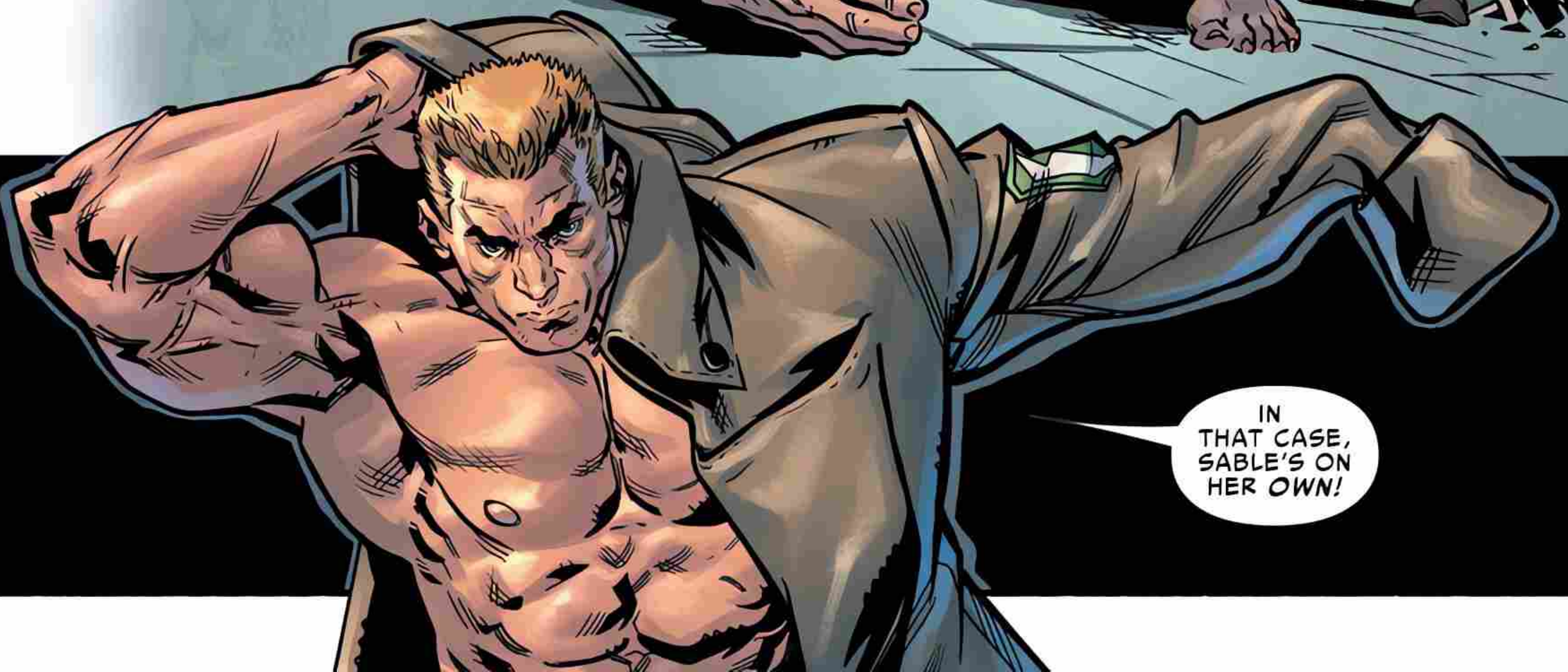
THEY MUST HAVE HIRED SABLE INTERNATIONAL TO FIND ME.



THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY DOOM TOOK A POWDER!

I HEARD HIM MENTION THE EQUIPMENT HE USES TO TRAVEL TO THE UNDERWORLD IS AT HIS CASTLE IN LATVERIA.

I ASSUME THAT WAS HIS "MORE IMPORTANT" CONCERN.



IN THAT CASE, SABLE'S ON HER OWN!

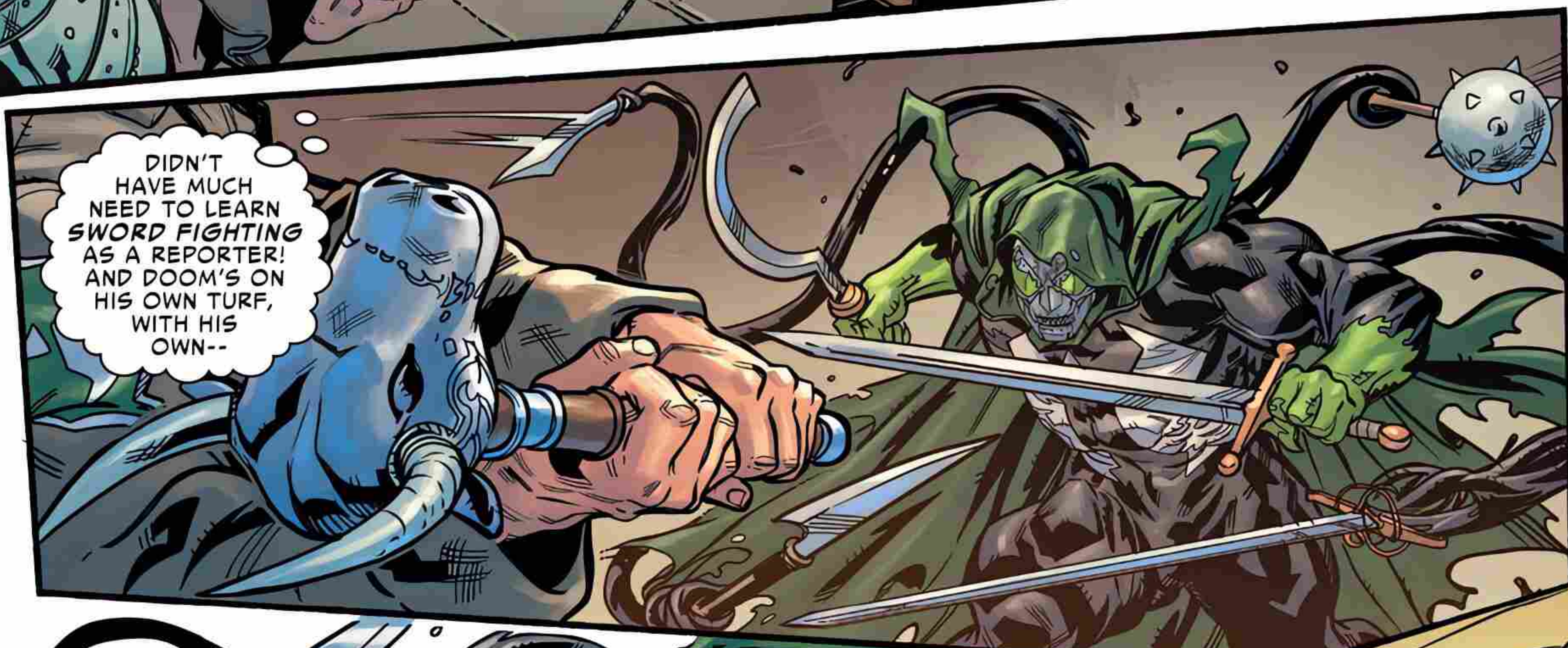




--OH, CRAP!
SYMBIOTE'S
WARNING HIM, JUST
LIKE IT USED
TO WARN ME!

SOME
SORT OF
ARMORY! AND--
THERE
HE IS!

GOTTA
BE QUIET. I'M
USED TO TALKING
TO MY OTHER,
BUT I NEED TO
SNEAK CLOSER
BEFORE
HE--



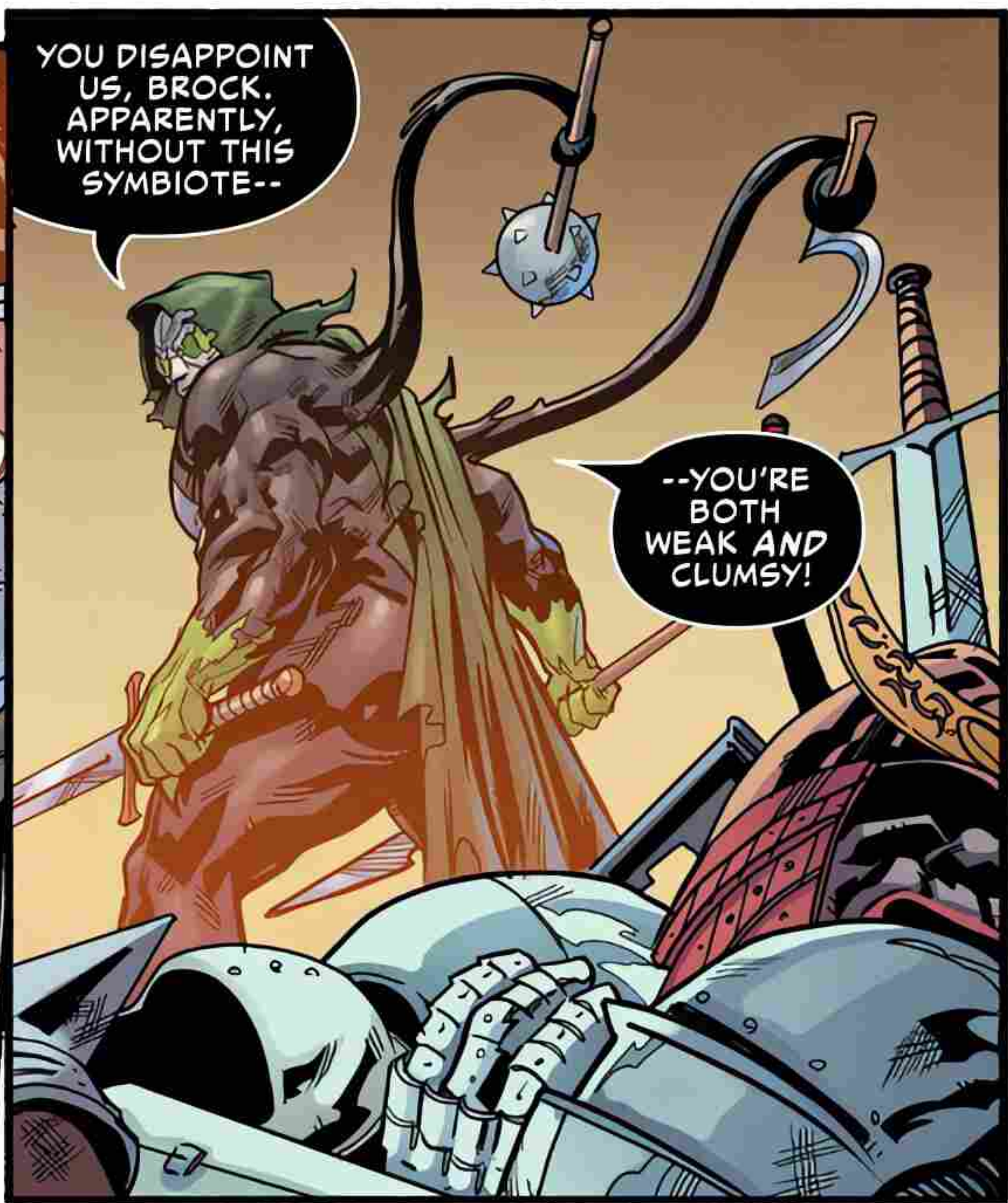
DIDN'T
HAVE MUCH
NEED TO LEARN
SWORD FIGHTING
AS A REPORTER!
AND DOOM'S ON
HIS OWN TURF,
WITH HIS OWN--

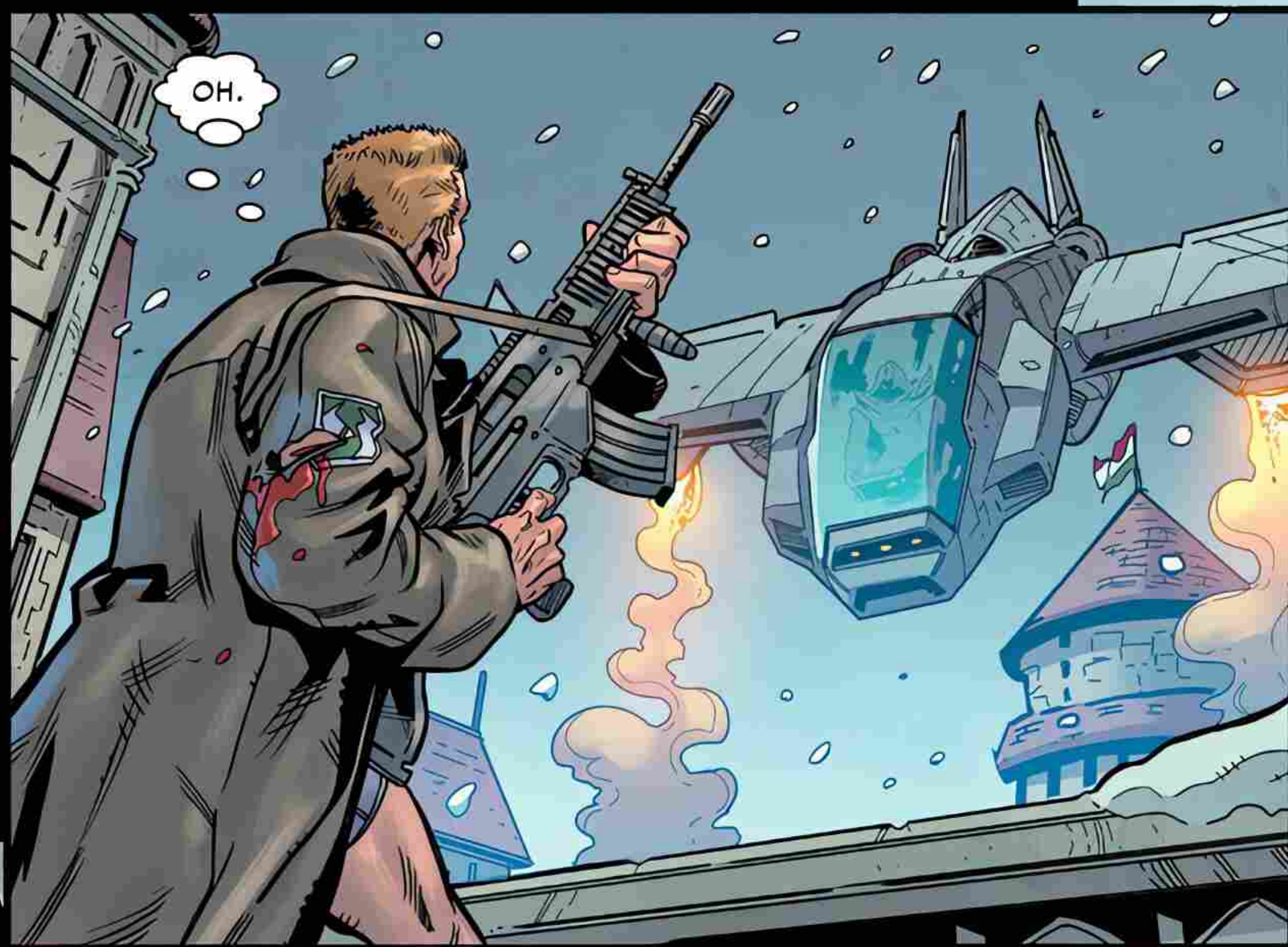


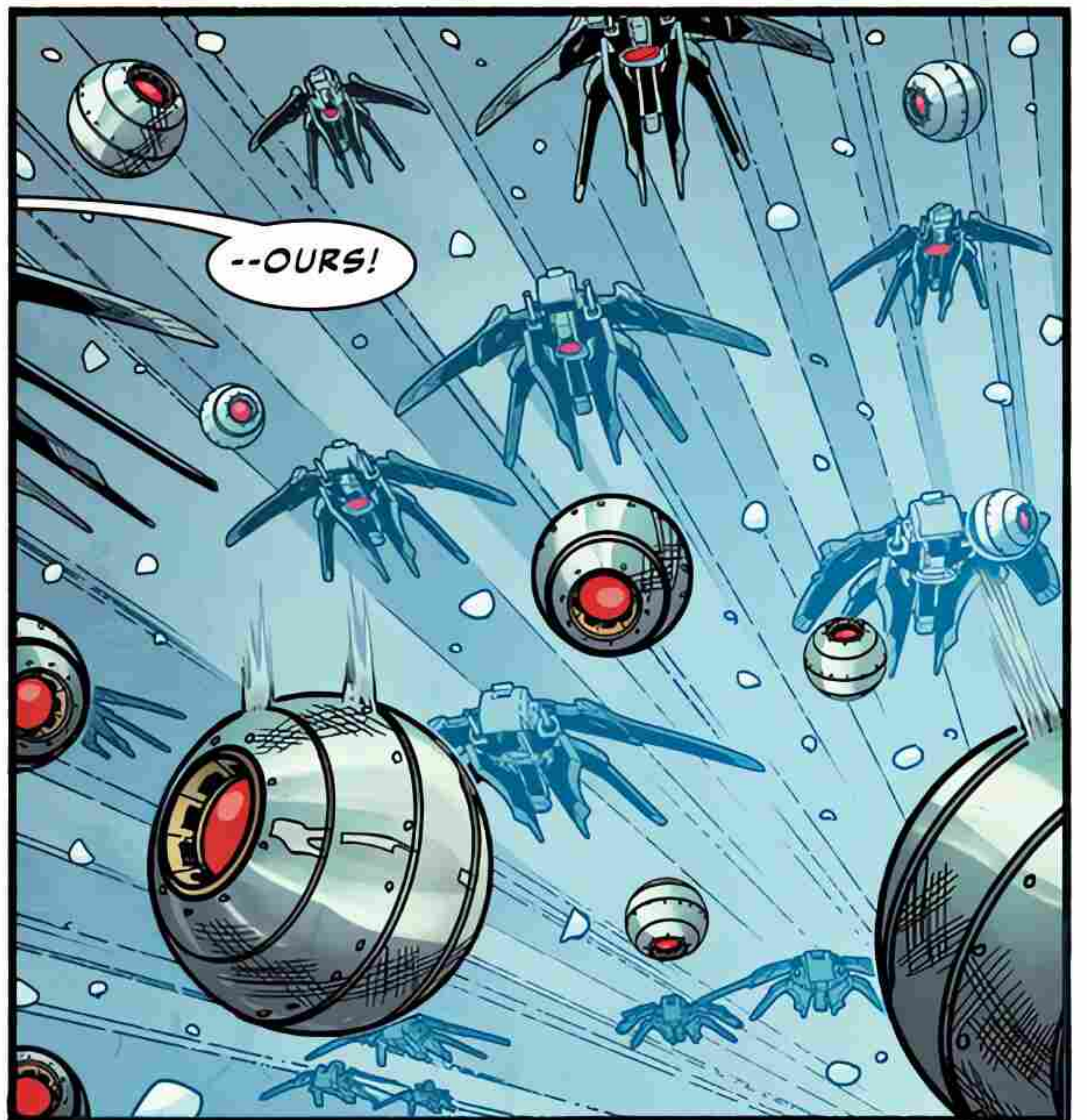
--AGH--
WEAPONS!

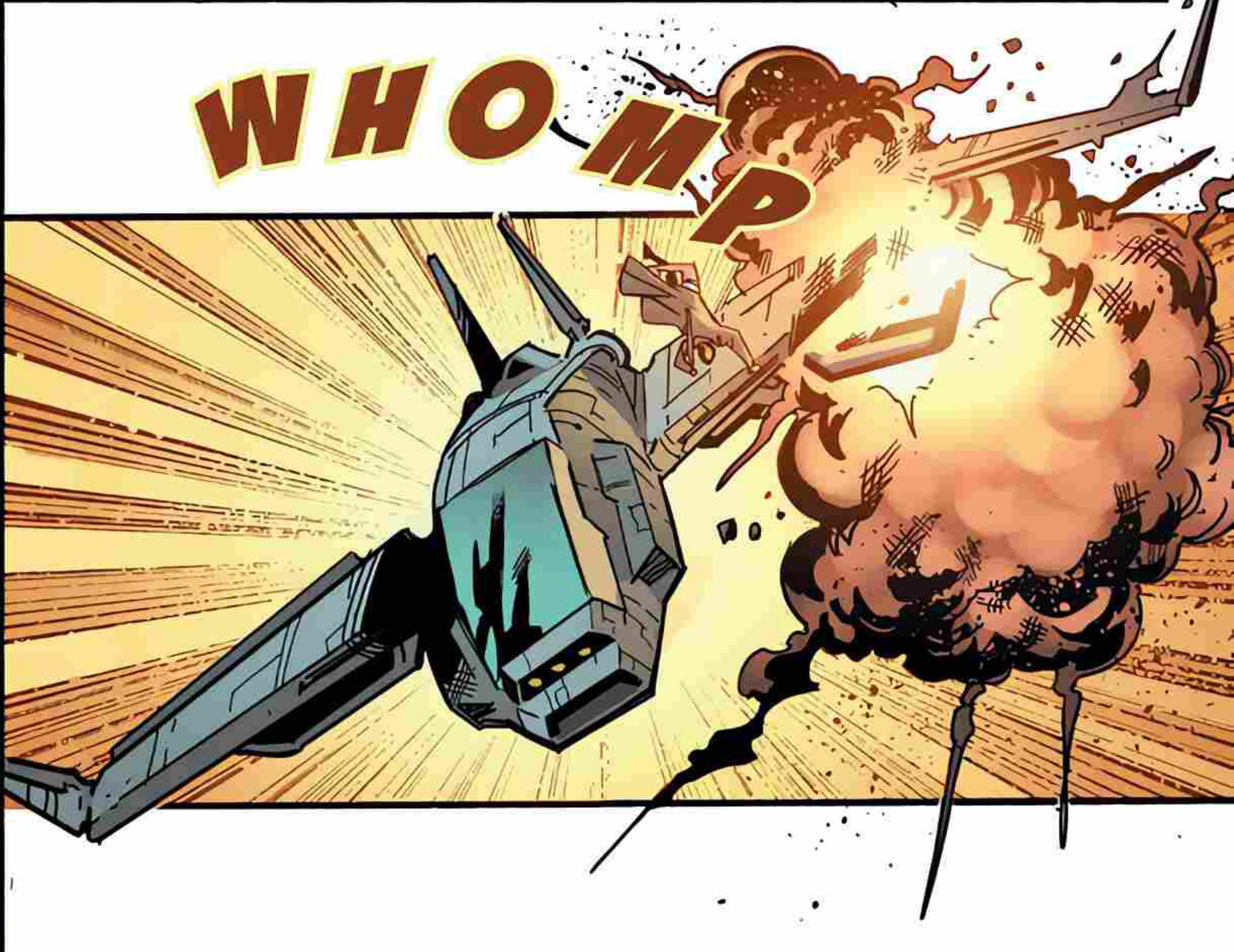
NOTHING
FATAL SO
FAR!

BUT IF I BLEED
TOO MUCH, START
LOSING MY HUMAN
STRENGTH--!





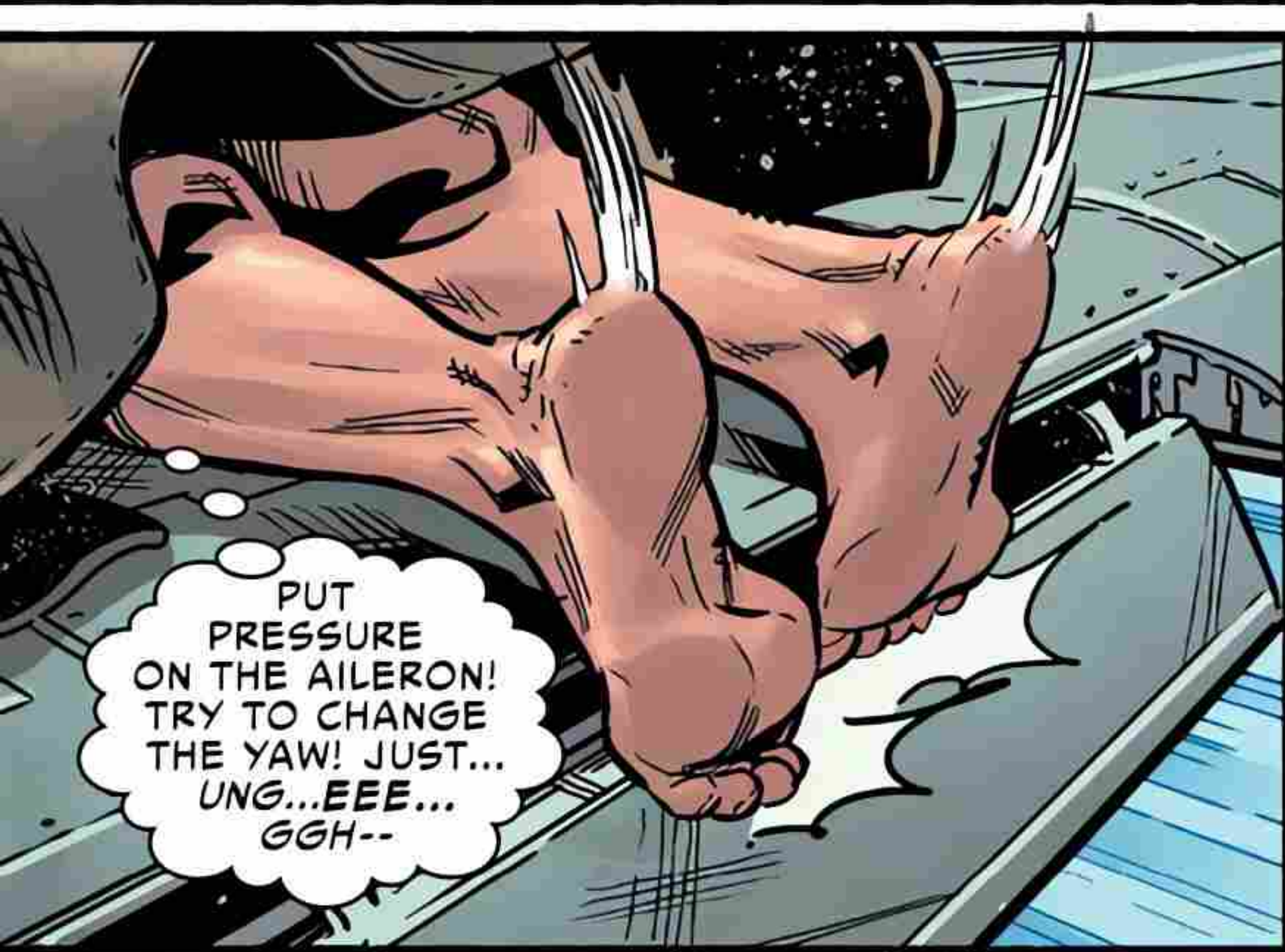






WORKED!
WE'RE HEADING
DOWN! BUT--

AW MAN!
WHY'D SOMEONE
HAVE TO BUILD A **SKI
RESORT** RIGHT
THERE!



PUT
PRESSURE
ON THE **AILERON!**
TRY TO CHANGE
THE **YAW!** JUST...
**UNG...EEE...
GGH--**



--NUFF!



SKRACHATSH



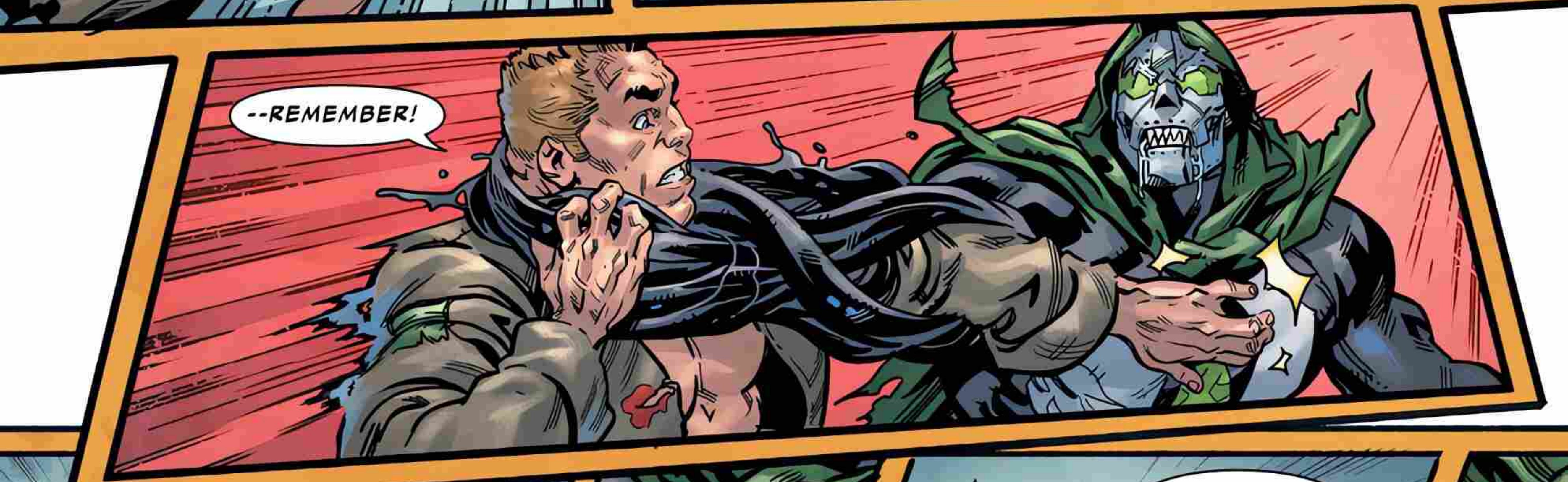
DOOM
ISN'T HURT--
SYMBIOTE
PROTECTED
HIM! BUT--

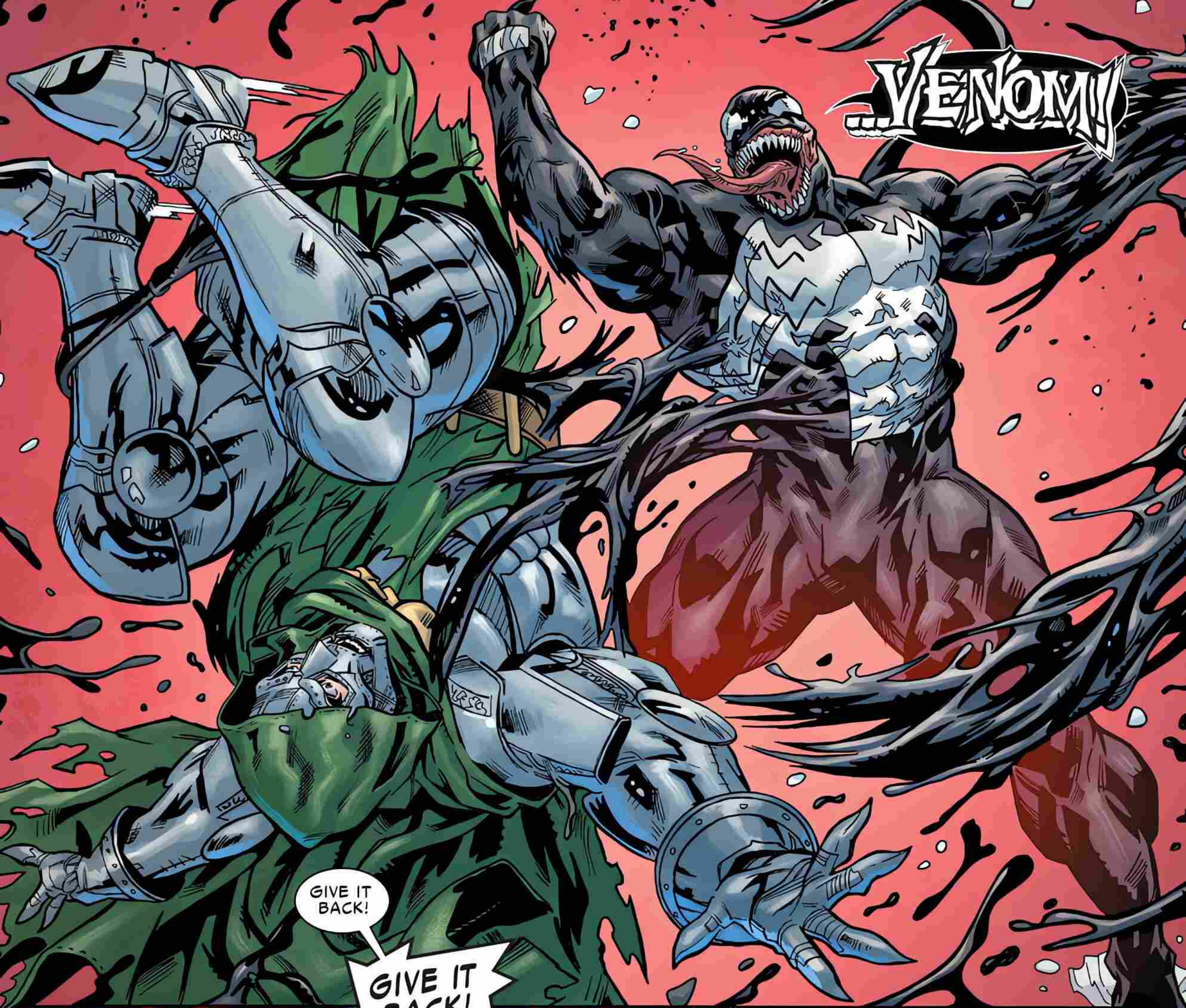
--IT'S PULLING
AWAY, AFRAID OF
FIRE! IF I CAN JUST
FORCE HIM **INTO**
THE **FLAMES--**



TAKE IT
EASY, SIR!
WE'RE HERE
TO HELP!







GIVE IT
BACK!

GIVE IT
BACK!



APPARENTLY,
YOU DIDN'T LEARN
MUCH WHILE
YOU WERE
TOGETHER.

MY
OTHER EATS
ELECTRICITY FOR
BREAKFAST!

WELL, THAT
AND THE OCCASIONAL
PANCREAS!

PLLLIP

DEPENDING
ON ITS
MOOD!

CHRUNCH

ENOUGH!

MY ACTIONS,
MY PRIORITIES,
HAVE BEEN...
INCONSTANT.

I
REQUIRE
TIME TO
THINK!

HIS ARMOR'S
TOO STRONG!
RED CEDAR DIDN'T
EVEN SCRATCH IT!
BUT HOW--?

WHAT? YES!
THAT COULD
WORK!

PLIP

BUT
FIRST WE
NEED TO
GET HIM--

--INTO
DEEPER
SNOW!

SSPOSSH





I...
CHNGK...I-I...YI...
WH...WHEEZE...
...YIELD?



NO.
EVEN...
GHK...UNDER
PENALTY...
WHKK...OF
DEATH...



DOOM...
WHKK...BENDS A
KNEE...K-KFF...
FOR NO...



WE...DIDN'T
EXPECT THAT. BUT
IF WE FREE YOU,
YOU'LL JUST TRY
TO KILL US.

THAT WON'T BE
NECESSARY NOW. I
BEAR YOU NO HATRED.
BUT MY DECISIONS,
MY...UNSEEMLY
ACTIONS.



I WISH ONLY
TO MEDITATE
ON MY CURIOUS
CONDUCT.

RELEASE
ME, AND I'LL
TROUBLE YOU
NO MORE.

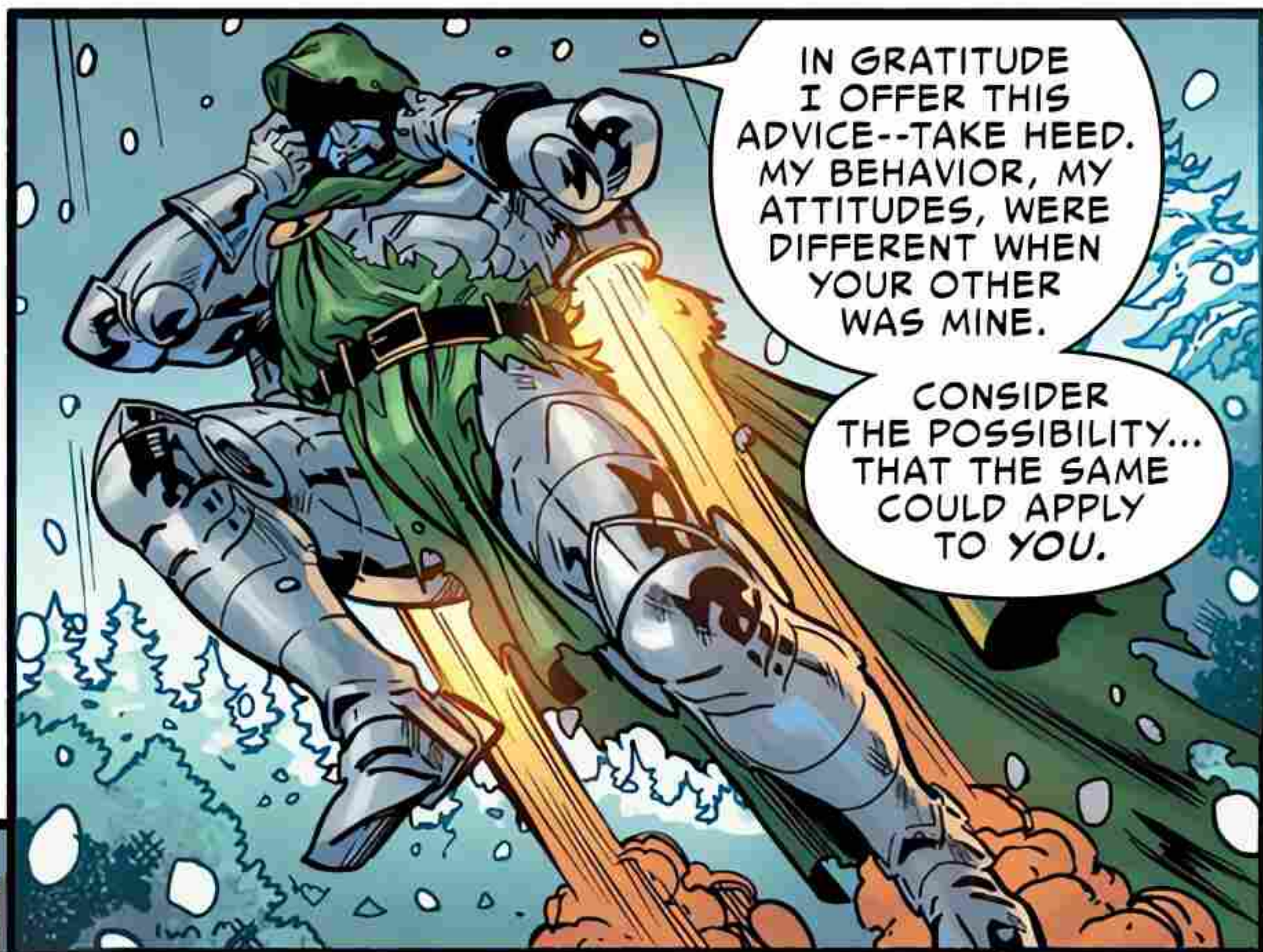


YOU
HAVE MY
WORD.



MY OTHER
WAS PART OF
YOU, CLOSER THAN
A TWIN. IT SAYS
YOU'RE SINCERE.
THEREFORE...

...WE
BELIEVE
YOU.



IN GRATITUDE
I OFFER THIS
ADVICE--TAKE HEED.
MY BEHAVIOR, MY
ATTITUDES, WERE
DIFFERENT WHEN
YOUR OTHER
WAS MINE.

CONSIDER
THE POSSIBILITY...
THAT THE SAME
COULD APPLY
TO YOU.



THAT'S SILLY.
WE MAY ACT AS
ONE, BUT OUR
WILLS ARE OUR
OWN, RIGHT?

...
RIGHT...?

EDDIE BROCK'S ANSWER IS SILENCE. A CALM SOON BROKEN
BY THE SOUNDS OF SIRENS, QUESTIONS AND BARKED ORDERS.



I DIDN'T
EXPECT TO
SEE YOU HERE,
BROCK.

FEELING'S
MUTUAL,
SILVER.



SEEMS FATE
KEEPS THROWING US
TOGETHER. YOUR CHECK
FOR THAT VANGUARDIAN
EPISODE IS WAITING
AT THE SYMKARIAN
EMBASSY.

AND THE
SAME RATES APPLY
IF YOU'RE EVER
LOOKING FOR
WORK AGAIN.

THANKS.
BUT UNLESS
YOU LOOK
PARTICULARLY
ATTRACTIVE IN
BLUE--



--YOU
MIGHT NOT
WANT TO
HOLD YOUR
BREATH!

NIGHT RETURNS TO MANHATTAN, AS DOES A WOUNDED AND WEARY EDDIE BROCK...

...WITH A PROMISE TO KEEP.

HOLY COW!

EDDIE, THIS...THIS IS A FORTUNE!

NOT A FORTUNE, PABLO, BUT ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU IN COLLEGE FOR A WHILE--IF YOU DO YOUR PART.

COUNT ON IT! YOU'RE GIVING ME A CHANCE I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE. I JUST WISH...

...I HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU.

YOU ALREADY HAVE--YOU'VE GIVEN ME WISDOM.

WHEN YOU OFFERED TO BE MY PARTNER, TO HELP ME OUT IN THE LIFE FATE DEALT ME... I TURNED YOU AWAY.

I TOLD YOU WE DIDN'T NEED ANYONE TO HELP US.

BUT YOU HELPED SAVE AN INNOCENT LIFE WHEN I WAS TANGLING WITH THAT UNI-TROOPER.

SILVER SABLE HELPED ME KEEP THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER FROM PLOWING INTO MANHATTAN.

AND DR. GODDARD HELPED ME ESCAPE DOOM'S CONFINEMENT.

YOU SHOWED ME THAT **EVERYONE** NEEDS HELP, SOMETIMES. YES...

...EVEN VENOM.

End!



Next

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